

## Thomas Pinckney to Andrew Jackson, November 16, 1813, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by John Spencer Bassett.

### FROM PINCKNEY'S INSTRUCTIONS TO JACKSON.

Head Quarters, Sixth District, November 16, 1813

*Sir* , . . . . The Troops from Tennessee should penetrate into the heart of the best settlements of the Creek Nation, which I understand are about the Fork of the Coosa and Talipossee Rivers, taking care that the progress of the main body should always be within such distance of their transports as to enable them to keep up their communication, in order to draw their supplies, and to support their Escort, in case the Enemy should endeavor to cut them off. At, or about this Fork, appears to be the most convenient situation to form a junction with the troops from Georgia, who might march by the military road from Milledgeville to Fort Stoddert, as far as Point Comfort, whence the fork of the Rivers cannot be far distant. At a convenient place, either on the Alabama near this junction, or on one of the rivers, a strong stockade fort should be built; a sufficient garrison stationed in it, and from thence the further operations against the Enemy should be conducted. This position would enable us to obtain supplies both from the upper parts of the River, from the state of Louisiana by way of the Lakes and Mobile, and thence up the river; as well as such as might be procured on the Tombigby, which might come down that river to its junction with the Alabama and thence up the latter to the Dépôt; it is possible also that some provisions might be obtained from the Friendly Indians, or captured from those who are hostile, and our magazine thereby increased. The troops from Georgia will, I fear find more difficulty in transporting their supplies, as their route to the junction will be across the water courses; the upper streams of the Chatahouchee, I however observe from the Maps, approach the Nth Westn Counties of Georgia, and if practicable,

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no time should be lost in forwarding by that course, provisions under a sufficient Guard, to a Depot to be formed near the intersection of the military road, with the chatahouchee River, which the Maps designate as being near Coweta but if that mode be inexpedient, a dépôt should still be formed at that place; even if it be necessary to transport the stores thither in Waggons; and the Dépôt should be protected by a good stockade fort.

Supplies of provisions and ammunition, should also, if possible, be obtained from N: Orleans, conveyed to Fort Stoddert, and thence might be escorted to the station near the Fork of the Coosa and Tallapoossee, by the 3d Regt. of Infantry, which is to form part of Genl. Williams' Brigade on this Expedition; and who might either embark with the stores, or march within supporting distance of the transports on the River, as the nature of the country and the facility of transportation might render it expedient; for that purpose, the Contractor for the Mississippi territory should be directed forthwith to deposit a large supply of provision at Fort Stoddart, and the Quarter Master of the District provide proper boats for the transportation. The Commandg Officer of the Naval Department in this District should also be requested to furnish convoy to protect the transportation in passing round to Mobile, if practicable, up the River. A Requisition should likewise be made on the Officer of the Ordnance department in that District, to lodge at Fort Stoddert an adequate provision of cartridges for musquetry, and powder and lead for Rifles, together with fixed ammunition for the three pound field-pieces attached to the troops marching from Georgia, and, if the Troops from Tennessee are furnished with cannon, for them also. . . . 1

1 It is strange that so good an officer as General Pinckney should have given Jackson so many orders that could not have been executed. How could Jackson order supplies from New Orleans? How could the depleted 3rd Regiment take them up the Alabama River in the face of the opposition of the Creeks? The letter is singularly inept, in that Pinckney planned to conduct the campaign from the Gulf Coast and ordered Jackson, struggling through the mountains of Alabama, to carry it out.